

Key Hearing Questions

1. What are the important differences between the load serving entities (LSE) demand forecasts and staff's demand forecasts? Which of these differences have simple explanations (e.g. different population projections) and which require more detailed evaluation to understand the source of the difference?
2. Are the assumptions used in the parties' load forecasts for each planning area reasonable? These assumptions include demographic and economic drivers, prices, and energy efficiency impacts.
3. Do LSE and staff forecasts present a reasonable range of forecast results? If not, how should the forecasts be modified or be reconciled?
4. The two key forecast uncertainties for the staff forecast indicated in the report are population projections and the accuracy of historic LSE sales reporting. Is there agreement concerning the importance of these uncertainties? Are there other important uncertainties for LSE forecasts? What is the best way to analyze them?
5. Which of these uncertainties truly reflect inability to know and which are created by inadequate resources devoted to data collection, analysis and modeling efforts? Are there "solutions" to any of this latter category of uncertainties and over what timeframe might such solutions be implemented?